

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/902,201

Examiner

Phuoc H. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

SCHLEISS ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on May 12, 2006 and interviewed set on August 11, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-17 and 19-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date August 11, 2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron M. Peters (Reg. No. 48,801) on May 12, 2006.

Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 18, and amend claims 1, 10, 17, 22, 27, and 31-33 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of communicating information within an enterprise having a process control system and a plurality of information technology systems, the method comprising the steps of:

generating transactional process control information related to a transactional event within the process control system, wherein the transactional process control information comprises at least one of the group consisting of device alarm information, process condition information and equipment condition information;

formatting the transactional process control information based on a first extensible markup language schema to form formatted transactional process control information;

sending the formatted transactional process control information to a transactional information server via a web services interface;

mapping the formatted transactional process control information to a second extensible markup language schema associated with one of the plurality of information technology systems to form mapped transactional process control information; and

sending the mapped transactional process control information to a first one of the plurality of information technology systems to use the mapped transactional process control information to perform a function related to the transactional event.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A system for use in an enterprise having a plurality of information technology systems, the system comprising:

a process control system that is adapted to format transactional process control information based on an extensible markup language and a plurality of input schemas, wherein each of the plurality of input schemas is associated with a type of transactional process control information related to a transactional event within the process control system and wherein the transactional process control information comprises at least one of the group consisting of device alarm information, process condition information and equipment condition information;

a web services interface communicatively coupled to the process control system; and

a transactional data server communicatively coupled to the web services interface and the plurality of information technology systems, wherein the transactional data server is adapted to map transactional process control information that has been formatted based on the extensible markup language and the plurality of input schemas to a plurality of output schemas, wherein each of the plurality of output schemas is associated with an application that is executed within one of the plurality of information technology systems, and wherein the transactional data server is further adapted to send mapped transactional process control information to one of the plurality of information technology systems to use the mapped transactional process control information to perform a function related to the transactional event.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of processing transactional process control data, comprising the steps of:

wrapping the transactional process control data in an XML wrapper to form XML wrapped transactional process control data related to a transactional event within the process control system, wherein the transaction process control data comprises information associated

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with at least one of the group consisting of a device alert, an equipment condition and a process condition;

sending the XML wrapped transactional process control data via a web services interface and a communication network to an XML data server;

mapping the XML wrapped transactional process control data to an XML output schema associated with one of a plurality of information systems that are communicatively coupled to the communication network to form mapped XML transactional process control data; and

sending the mapped XML transactional process control data to the one of the plurality of information systems via the communication network to use the mapped transactional process control data to perform a function related to the transactional event.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method of processing transactional process control data, comprising the steps of:

encapsulating the transactional process control data in a markup language wrapper to form encapsulated transactional process control data related to a transactional event within the process control system, wherein the transactional process control information comprises at least one of the group consisting of device alarm information, process condition information and equipment condition information;

sending the encapsulated transactional process control data via a web services interface and a communication network to a markup language data server;

mapping the encapsulated transactional process control data to an output schema associated with one of an enterprise resource planning system and a manufacturing execution system to form mapped transactional process control data; and

sending the mapped transactional process control data to the one of the enterprise resource planning system and the manufacturing execution system to use the mapped transactional process control data to perform a function related to the transactional event.

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Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A method of communicating transactional process control information within an enterprise, comprising the steps of:

formatting the transactional process control information based on a first extensible markup language schema to form formatted transactional process control information related to a transactional event, wherein the transactional process control information comprises at least one of the group consisting of device alarm information, process condition information and equipment condition information;

sending the formatted transactional process control information to a transactional information server;

mapping the formatted transactional process control information to a second extensible markup schema associated with a process control system to form mapped transactional process control information; and

sending the mapped transactional process control information to the process control system via a web services interface to use the mapped transactional process control information to perform a function related to the transactional event.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A method of processing a device alarm for use within an enterprise including a process control system and a maintenance management system, comprising the steps of:

generating a device alarm related to a transactional event within the process control system;

formatting the device alarm based on an XML input schema to form an XML device alarm;

sending the XML device alarm to an XML transaction server;

mapping the XML device alarm to an XML output schema associated with the maintenance management system to form a mapped XML device alarm; and

sending the mapped XML device alarm to the maintenance management system to use the mapped XML device alarm to perform a function related to the device alarm.

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Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A method of processing equipment condition information for use within an enterprise including a process control system and an information technology system, comprising the steps of:

generating equipment condition information related to a transactional event within the process control system;

formatting the equipment condition information based on an XML input schema to form an XML message;

sending the XML message to an XML transaction server;

mapping the XML message to an XML output schema associated with the information technology system to form a mapped XML message; and

sending the mapped XML message to the information technology system to use the mapped XML message to perform a function related to the message.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of processing process condition information for use within an enterprise including a process control system and an information technology system, comprising the steps of:

generating process condition information related to a transactional event within the process control system;

formatting the process condition information based on an XML input schema to form an XML message;

sending the XML message to an XML transaction server;

mapping the XML message to an XML output schema associated with the information technology system to form a mapped XML message; and

sending the mapped XML message to the information technology system to use the mapped XML message to perform a function related to the message.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

2. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on May 12, 2006 and an examiner initiate interview on August 11, 2006.
3. Applicant amended claims 1, 10, 17, 22, 27, and 31-33.
4. Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-33 are allowed
5. Claims include limitations that the prior art of record does not appear to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations as recited below.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention is directed to a system and method of communicating information within an enterprise having a process control system and a plurality of information technology systems. The independent claims 1, 10, 17, 22, 27, and 31-33 identify an uniquely distinct feature “generating the transactional process control information comprises at least one of the group consisting of device alarm information, process condition information and equipment condition information, formatting the transactional process control information based on a first extensible markup language (XML) schema, sending the first XML schema to the transaction server, the transaction server performs the mapping the first XML schema to a second XML schema associated with information technology system, and sending the mapped XML schema to the information technology system to perform a function related to the transactional event” and in combination with other limitations as set forth in the independent claims. Claims 3-9, 11-16, 19-21, 23-26, and 28-30 are allowed due to dependent claims.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuoc H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Phuoc H Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

August 17, 2006


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